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Serial No.: 10/604,783
Attorney Docket No.: F-388-O1

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously amended) A method for collecting usage data for a meter including a removable UIC including a controller, a memory and a vault comprising:

storing a first set of usage data in the memory using a first set of data collection rules using the controller,

determining whether the first set of data collection segregation rules are current using the controller; and

using the controller, processing an update of the first set of data collection segregation rules before collecting a second set of usage data if the first set of data collection segregation rules are not current and not processing an update of the first set of data collection segregation rules before collecting the usage data if the data collection rules are current, wherein

using the controller, processing the update includes obtaining a second set of data collection rules; and further comprising:

using the controller, translating the first set of usage data using the second set of data collection rules.

2. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the UIC and vault must be matched;

determining whether the UIC is installed with the matching vault;

determining a meter segment type; and

determining whether the data collection segregation rules are current using the meter segment type.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the meter segment type is dynamically determined by using meter data.

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4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the meter data comprises the average number of mail pieces processed per day by the meter.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the meter data is stored at a central server, and the update of the data collection segregation rules is determined necessary if a rate table associated with the vault is not compatible with the first set of data collection segregation rules.

6. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein:
the meter includes an active data collection segregation rules storage system for storing the data collection segregation rules;
the meter includes a future data collection segregation rules storage system for storing future data collection segregation rules; and
the update of the data collection segregation rules is performed by replacing the data collection segregation rules with the future data collection segregation rules.

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the data collection segregation rules comprise a text string used for printing data capture information in a meter indicium.

8. (previously amended) A method for collecting usage data for a meter comprising:
storing a first set of usage data in a memory using a first set of data collection rules,
determining whether the first set of data collection segregation rules are current; and
processing an update of the first set of data collection segregation rules before collecting a second set of usage data if the first set of data collection

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segregation rules are not current and not processing an update of the first set of data collection segregation rules before collecting the usage data if the data collection rules are current, wherein

processing the update includes obtaining a second set of data collection rules; and further comprising:

translating the first set of usage data using the second set of data collection rules, wherein:

the meter includes a removable UIC;

the meter includes a vault having a serial number; and

further comprising:

determining whether the UIC and vault must be matched; and

determining whether the UIC is installed with the matching vault using the serial number.

9. (previously amended) The method of claim 8 wherein:

the meter includes a first memory system;

the meter includes a second memory system; and

further comprising:

determining transaction-data-capture data records using the data collection segregation rules for each transaction; and

storing the transaction-data-capture data in the first memory system after each transaction.

10 . (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the first memory device is a nonvolatile memory system and the second memory device is a nonvolatile memory system.

11 . (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the first memory device is a battery-backed CMOS memory system and the second memory device is a flash EEPROM nonvolatile memory system.

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12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the data records are stored using XML.

13. (previously amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the data records are filtered using an application-specific data filter.

14. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
periodically copying the data records from the first memory to the second memory.

15. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein:
the data collection segregation rules provide for collection of data to differentiate transactions processed using automated rating and transactions processed using manual rating.

16. (previously amended) The method of claim 15 wherein:
manual rating comprises keypad data entry; and
automated rating comprises automatically weighing mail pieces.

17. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
aggregating transaction records into a data report.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
determining a unique identifier for the data report.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
transmitting the data report and unique identifier to a central server, and
wherein determining whether the first set of data collection segregation rules

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are current includes determining if a rate table associated with the vault is not compatible with the first set of data collection segregation rules.

20. (canceled).

21. (previously amended) A postage meter for collecting usage data for a meter comprising:

a processor operatively connected to a first data collection segregation rules memory store, a second data collection segregation rules memory store, a first usage data memory store, and a second usage data memory store, the processor configured to perform:

storing a first set of usage data in the first usage data memory store using a first set of data collection rules stored in the first data collection segregation rules memory store,

determining whether the first set of data collection segregation rules are current;

if the first set of data collection segregation rules are not current, processing an update of the first set of data collection segregation rules before collecting a second set of usage data by storing a second set of data segregation rules in the second data collection segmentation rules memory store, and not processing an update of the first set of data collection segregation rules before collecting the usage data if the first set of data collection rules are current; and

then, if the first set of data collection segregation rules are updated, then storing additional usage data in the second usage data memory store and translating the first set of usage data using the second set of data collection rules, and if the first set of data segregation rules are not updated, then storing additional usage data in the first usage data memory store.